CHAPTER IV.—MODERN JAMMU & KASHMIR—1925-43.

With the accession in september 1925 of His Highness Raj Rajeshwar Maharajadhiraj Shri Maharaja Hari Singhji Bahadur, Inder Mahinder, Sipar-i-Saltanat-i-Inglishia to the throne, a new era in the history of the State begins. His Highness is the great-grandson of Maharaja Gulab Singhji and son of the late General Raja Sir Amar Singhji, younger brother of the late Maharaja. Born in 1895, he received education under a number of qualified European and Indian instructors. In 1908, he joined the Mayo College, Ajmer. After completing the full course of studies there, he received training in the Imperial Cadet Corps, Dehra Dun. His late Highness appointed him Commander-in-Chief of State forces in 1915, before he had attained the age of twenty. He took an active part in the training and equipping of the units despatched for service in the Great War and in sending reinforcements to keep them up to the sanctioned war strength. In 1922, he was appointed Senior Member of the then State Council, and a number of reforms were initiated by him in this capacity.

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On the occasion of the *Rajtilak* ceremony, which was performed at Jammu in February 1926, in the presence of distinguished guests including several Ruling Princes, His Highness announced a number of boons. One of the boons conferred on the land-holders the right to cut down and utilize all royal coniferous trees on areas assessed to land revenue; another extended from 3 months to 12 months in the year the right of the villagers to remove dead and fallen timber; and a third bestowed certain rights on village communities with regard to the land of land-holders dying without issue. The most important of the boons was the bestowal of *khalsa* land on village communities which had no *shamlat* (village commons) up to cent. per cent. of their holdings. His Highness also sanctioned on the occasion the extension of technical education to certain localities in both the provinces; the opening of more schools and hospitals; the provision of a special allotment every year for the supply of

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657 drinking water in the *bandi illaqa* ; and the reconstruction of the bridge over the Tawi at Jammu. The concessions then announced have materialized, and the beneficent activities of the Government have increased year after year.

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691 During His present Highness' term of office as
697 Senior Member of the then State Council, His late Highness had issued orders to provide for (1) employment of State-subjects only to all ordinary vacancies, and (2) grant of lands for house building and other purposes to State-subjects only ; and a Committee of official and non-official members had been appointed to suggest a definition of the term State-subject for the purpose of these orders. The definition proposed by the Committee was accepted by His Highness, and it protects the children of the soil in the matter of recruitment to Government services and several other privileges against outsiders.

698 A committee had been appointed in 1923 to consider the future requirements of the different departments in technical qualifications and experience, and make proposals for grant of scholarships for training to qualified State-subjects. This committee was reconstituted in 1927 as the Scholarship Selection Board. In recent years, thirty qualified State-subjects selected by the Board have received training in several institutions in Europe and America and British India in Civil Engineering, Architecture and Town Planning, Medicine, Veterinary Science, Pharmaceutics, Horticulture, Sericulture, Forestry, Printing, Law and Public administration ; and most of them are now in Government service. Training, academic and technical, has also been given in Indian institutions to over 275 State-subjects. Lump sum provision has been made in the budget since 1937-38 for grant of loans to persons desirous of prosecuting advanced studies or undergoing advanced or special training in India or abroad and out of this provision, loans of over Rs. 70,000 have been granted so far to a number of State-subjects for training in Forestry, Chemistry, Mathematics, Medicine, Public Health etc., in England and for Accounts, Law and Post-graduate studies in India.

His Highness also impressed upon the Heads of

1942 On this day, His Highness the Maharaja Bahadur was graciously pleased to grant Letters Patent to the High Court of Judicature similar to those of High Courts in British India. This gave the court a status and prestige of its own.

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1947 In July 1943, His Highness was pleased to appoint a Commission of Enquiry, under the presidentship of 1947 R. B. Ganga Nath, Chief Justice and President Praja 1115 Sabha, consisting principally of non-official members of the Praja Sabha and others representing different interests and communities to ascertain whether the existing constitution of the State had worked well and with a view to formulating a policy for the future and the evolution of an organic scheme for the administration of the State. The Commission has also been required to make recommendations to secure (1) the safety, integrity and security of the State, (2) the efficient and progressive character of the administration, (3) the uninterrupted and harmonious progress of the State with the object of drawing all the communities inhabiting its territories closer to one another in the common service of the State, (4) the development of the economic resources of the State and its people leading to a higher and healthier standard of life, (5) the increasing representation of the State-subjects in the higher offices of the State and the adoption of a policy aiming at the association of State-subjects of all denominations with the administration of the State, (6) the strict enforcement of the policy that appointments under the Government shall be reserved for the subjects of the State except where the possession of expert or technical knowledge or experience unavailable within the State, may make it essential to import outsiders for a temporary period only or except where any special reasons may justify the appointment of an outsider to an administrative post for a definite period, and (7) the adoption of effective measures to stamp out corruption in any shape or form from all departments of the State.

The particular attention of the Commission has been drawn to a number of specific matters, mentioned below :—

(1) provision of nursing and medical facilities particularly in the rural areas;

647 (2) improvement of sanitary conditions in the towns
• 657 of Jammu and Srinagar;
185 (3) prevention of venereal diseases, specially in Udhampur, Ramnagar and Ramban Tehsils;
(4) provision of water-supply in the entire Agandi area;
(5) economic rehabilitation of the Frontier districts;
(6) the present position of State industries and their further development;
(7) grant of adequate aid to hereditary State-subjects to establish or promote industries suited to the conditions prevailing in the State territories;
(8) provision for technical, industrial and scientific education;
(9) reforms in the educational system tending to give a practical bias to education in all its stages, primary, secondary and higher, with the object of equipping the youth of the State to earn their livelihood;
(10) taking of practical steps *e. g.*, by the appointment of an Employment Board or any other suitable means to guide and help the youth of the State in securing employment or in adopting profitable careers;
(11) insuring of economic security amongst all classes of people, particularly the peasantry by developing their economic and material strength, securing a better standard of life, improving their health and by fostering co-operative effort directed to their welfare;
(12) investigation into the question of migration of labour from the State into British India and examination of the question whether from the point of view of the people such migration is profitable and deserving of encouragement or whether it is harmful calling for check;
(13) the desirability of stopping the purchase of agricultural and other lands by outsiders either directly, or indirectly through the intervention of the State-subjects;
(14) prevention of illicit traffic in women;
(15) investigation into the question whether the present marriage law is effective or whether it requires amendment;
(16) further intensification of the rural uplift movement;
(17) further measures for the more effective

647 prevention of erosion ;
657 (18) the development of Local Self-Government in cities, towns and the village areas ;
185 (19) preservation and beautification of the country side ;

(20) planned framing of the Budget and apportionment of finance for nation-building activities over a period of years ;

(21) fixing of a suitable ratio between the expenditure on Medical relief, Education and Public Works Departments.

The Commission held its inaugural meeting on the 9th August 1943, when the President read out the following message received from His Highness:—" On this the first day of the sitting of the Commission, I desire to send a personal message of goodwill and encouragement in the arduous task which lies before you. I decided to appoint this Commission and to entrust to you the duty of making a thorough enquiry into matters that affect the well-being of my subjects and of submitting to me a well-considered report containing practical suggestions for the advancement in different spheres of life of the different communities. I shall watch with keen interest the progress of your work. If you work together, not in a narrow and mutually distrustful spirit, but with the fixed resolve to serve the best interests of the State and that loyalty on which I depend, I feel confident that your labours will be fruitful, and add to the moral and material welfare of the inhabitants of this State. I charge you to apply yourselves zealously and wisely to the task that lies before you with a fixed determination to arrive at wise and practical conclusions which would redound to the credit of the State and bring us all greater happiness. Very sincerely and earnestly, I wish you god-speed."

This was followed by a speech from the President in the course of which he said that they were all beholden to His Highness the Maharaja Bahadur for his gracious message. He went on to say : " Luckily, we are working under the aegis of a sovereign to whose heart your happiness, prosperity and progress are very near ; and who, I am assured, is keenly anxious that this Commission should lead to happy results. The terms of reference, I need scarcely remind you, are very wide and they cover

practically the whole of the life of the people in different spheres. I shall make an earnest appeal to you to make a response to the command in the spirit in which it has been issued and to try for yourselves whether co-operation is not more fruitful than mere non-co-operation, when you are called upon not merely to pass resolutions. But to recommend definite proposals for the amelioration of your fellow citizens."

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The status of cultivators of land, whose condition was little better than that of serfs before the introduction of Settlement of land, has been improved considerably. The maximum State share of revenue is fixed at 30 per cent. of the gross produce, and suspensions and remissions are granted from time to time. The term of a Settlement has been extended to 40 years. Long before the establishment of the Praja Sabha, His Highness had studied conditions of life in the interior of the State by extensive tours. He had also introduced an effective method of keeping in touch with the rural population through conferences of the representatives of each Tehsil in Jammu and Kashmir held annually at the headquarters of the Government. This form of consultation with popular representatives gave His Highness a more intimate knowledge of the real needs and requirements of the masses. As a result of the representations made at these conferences and the discussions that followed, attention was directed towards the improvement of means of communication in the villages, improvement of livestock, grant of cultivable land as *nautor* and provision of more facilities for education and medical relief in the villages. The Agriculturists' Relief Act was enacted, several years before the institution of the Praja Sabha, to protect the agriculturists from the extortion of money-lenders who charged high rates of interest, and was the first of a series of legislations for the protection of the agriculturists. It prescribed the maximum rates of interest and empowered the courts to examine the accounts of a loan and to fix instalments for discharging debts on the basis of the paying capacity of the debtor. Special *ailans* were issued declaring agricultural holdings, livestock, agricultural implements, seeds, etc., as non-attachable for redemption of

654 The saffron of Kashmir grown in one important locality
242 in the valley, is very famous. The Department has recently made some successful experiments in growing this saffron in Kishtwar in Jammu Province.

The Department also sends peripatetic parties of gardeners to the villages to demonstrate to the *zamindars* the operations connected with orchard laying. Demonstrations are given and the people educated regarding the control of pests. An Act for compulsory spraying of fruit plants has been promulgated. Agriculture, fruit, and flower shows are held annually at several places in the State to arouse the interest of the people in improved methods of agriculture, horticulture and floriculture.

The Department maintains poultry farms in which improved breeds are raised. Eggs and chicks are supplied to *zamindars* from these farms. His Highness' Government are a member of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research and the Council has provided funds for (1) the San Jose Scale and the Woolly Aphis Research Scheme, (2) the Rice Research Scheme and (3) the Vegetable Seed Production Scheme in the State. A fruit survey scheme has also been sanctioned by the Council.

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655 The establishment of *panchayats*[1] in the villages of the
[647] State under the Panchayat Act has received a great fillip
623 since 1937 with the creation of a separate Department of Rural Development. To start with the Government
[651] sanctioned a lump sum grant of Rs. 40,000 for execution of improvement works. The grant was raised to Rs. 1,00,000 later. Subsequently the grant of Rs. 40,000 provided for the *kandi* water supply was transferred to this Department, raising the total to Rs. 1,40,000 in S. 1996-97. In S. 1999 the grant stood at Rs. 2,00,000. The *panchayats* do not merely decide petty cases. They are engaged in the work of rural reconstruction and are co-operating with the Government in the matter of execution of improvement schemes in rural areas. Besides providing free manual labour for construction of village roads and sinking of wells and similar other works, the *panchayats* have also made cash contributions for these public utility works. Villagers are also contributing towards the purchase of the community Radio sets, digging of wells,

1 [ie, village councils, usually composed of five members -- Analyst]

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paving of village lanes, construction of drains and linking of villages by fair weather roads. In the domain of health and sanitation and anti-epidemic work, *panchayats* have shown especially good results. Cleanliness weeks have been celebrated and houses, compounds, lanes, springs, wells etc., have been systematically cleaned. Latrines and bath rooms have been constructed in a number of villages, thousands of manure and soakage pits have been dug and a large number of drains has been prepared. Cattle pounds have been opened in several *panchayat* areas and vehicle stands and slaughter houses have also been provided. Carefully planned campaigns are being arranged in selected areas with a view to educating the ignorant masses about the causes and prevention of common diseases. A Health and Sanitation campaign in Kashmir Province and an Anti-malaria campaign in Jammu Province have now become regular features of the activities of the Department. The *panchayats* take a prominent part in the distribution of better seeds and poultry to the *zamindars* under the guidance of the Agriculture Department. Extensive work has been carried on by the Rural Development Department in the cause of village uplift. Comprehensive economic surveys have been launched with a view to understanding the causes of the economic, social and cultural backwardness of the rural population. Over 2,700 villages have been surveyed so far.

Among the matters receiving the attention of the Department are the development of decaying village industries and propaganda for adult education. Two schools, one for shoe-making at Neloi and the other for knitting at Jatlan, in Mirpur, are functioning under the guidance of the Department.

The Department has also built tanks, bored deep wells, laid pipes and provided hydrams for water in the *kandi illaqa* of Jammu Province. Experiments in rock boring for drilling wells in the *illaqa* are in hand. During S. 1999, the budget allotment of Rs. 40,000 for supply of drinking water to the *kandi illaqa* was raised to Rs. 75,000. Further, His Highness the Maharaja Bahadur was gracious enough to donate Rs. 25,000 for construction of wells in the *illaqa*. Shri Yuvaraj Karan Singhji also donated Rs. 10,000 for the purpose.

657 623 To insure against food scarcity that had previously threatened the village areas in Kashmir Province, the *panchayats* in Kashmir Province collected in S. 1999, 60,000 *kharwars* of *shali* and maize on *khushkdavid* basis for use in times of scarcity.

With a view to minimizing the migration of unskilled workers from Kashmir Valley to the plains in the winter for work and finding suitable productive work in the State itself for the men who migrate and as near their homes as possible, the Rural Development Department was entrusted with investigating the matter and preparing lists of men who migrate and the kinds of work suited to them. With the help of the *panchayats*, the Department was able to submit the details to the Government within a very short time of a month and a half. On the basis of this information, the Government appointed a committee for devising schemes calculated to provide labour to such labourers. As a result of the recommendations of the committee, Government sanctioned several schemes for providing employment to large numbers of people.

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656 Nor have the interests of the masses of the urban population which include manufacturers and traders, artisans and craftsmen, owners of house-boats and boatmen and skilled and unskilled labourers been lost 658 sight of. Primary education for boys has been made free and compulsory in the cities and important towns. As recommended by the Glancy Commission, the fees previously imposed on visitors to the Mughal Gardens near 651 Srinagar were abolished. Taxes on boat-men have in certain cases been reduced or remitted, and sites for mooring of house-boats have been provided either at 444 cheap rates or free of rent. An industrial exhibition has been held at Srinagar annually since 1929. The 543 exhibition attracts a large number of people including visitors, with the result that not only have there been greater sales, but there has been marked improvement in the variety and the finish of the goods produced. In order to provide assistance in the marketing of goods manufactured in the State, an Industrial Museum and Sales Emporium was opened at Srinagar towards the end of 1941. A similar institution has been started at Jammu also.

491 all the districts and important towns, except those in the frontier, with one another. Two bridges, one over
[73] the Chenab at Akhnoor and the other over the Tawi at Jammu, have been built at a cost of about Rs. 8 lakhs. The bridge at Akhnoor is believed to have the largest unsupported span (450 ft.) in India. The bridges over the Jhelum between Muzaffarabad and Domel and those over the Kishanganga between Muzaffarabad and Garhi Habibullah, which had been washed away during the flood of 1929 were replaced at a considerable cost. Following this flood, an elaborate scheme estimated to cost about Rs. 20 lakhs was sanctioned for the prevention of floods in future. The bunds of the river Jhelum have been raised at several places, and it is gratifying to note that there has been no major flood in Kashmir during the last 12 years. The moderately heavy flood of September 1941 passed on with no damage to the city. The Ujh River in Jammu Province is, as an experimental measure, being spanned by a reinforced concrete submersible bridge, the foundations of which are so designed as to safeguard against scour in heavy floods. If the experiment succeeds, similar bridges will be constructed on the large sandy streams.

655 Telegraph, telephone and wireless services have also been developed in recent years, and all important places have been linked up. There are two wireless Radio Stations, one at Jammu Cantonment and the other at Naushera. Proposals for establishment of aeronautical services between British India and the State are under
3/3 consideration. For irrigation purposes, the P. W. D.
657 maintains 10 canals, five in Jammu Province and five in Kashmir Province. Of the latter, one was completed about 13 years ago, while two have been completed recently.

Water supply in the cities of Srinagar and Jammu has been considerably improved and old pipes have been replaced at several places by new ones. In the remote parts of Jammu Province where there is scarcity of water, efforts have been made to supply drinking water by means of tanks, wells and pipes. Where spring water and other natural sources of supply are available, satisfactory arrangements for drinking water have been made. As has been shown elsewhere in this note, great efforts are being made by the Rural Development Depart-

ment for supply of drinking water to the *kandi illaqa* of Jammu Province, and a special allotment is made in the budget for the purpose every year. Tube wells have been constructed at several places, and water supply schemes for a number of localities are under consideration. 657 312

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Reference has already been made to one of the chief industries in the State, *viz.*, the Sericulture industry, which is a Government concern. The silk filature in Srinagar is the largest of its kind in the world. A special quality of raw silk has been produced in Kashmir, which can favourably compete with silk produced anywhere else. It is interesting to note that the rearing of cocoons for silk provides employment for thousands of homes in the villages, exclusive of the labour that finds employment in the factories themselves. Owing to the rise in the price of silk, sericulture has already made a good contribution to the revenue of the State. A scheme for a large expansion of the industry has been taken in hand. A five-year plan for the expansion of the factory at Jammu has already been sanctioned, and it is expected that at the end of five years, the labour employed in the sericulture operations in the factory premises and in cocoon rearing in the province as a whole will show an increase of 150 per cent. High class carpets are manufactured in Kashmir and exported to Europe and America. Owing to the war, however, this industry has suffered a set-back recently. The industry, as stated before, continues to receive a subsidy from the Government. 655 288

A Department of Industries was established in 1923 to develop and foster industries in the State. The chief among the older industries which have become established are a Match Factory, a Santonine Factory, a Tannery, a Pottery Factory and the Shri Karan Singh Woollen Mills. A Government Silk Weaving Factory has been established to produce high class silk fabrics of different kinds. It has recently been developed and expanded to four times its original size to give a further fillip to the silk weaving industry in the State. A Research and Commercial Sheep Breeding Farm with a research and commercial section has been established to develop the sheep breeding 647 655 288 232 654

747 His Highness 'adopted' 5 Polish refugee children in British India for a period of one year. The War Aid Committee similarly 'adopted' 10 of these children for the same period.

His Highness has also contributed large sums of money from his Privy Purse for particular purposes connected with or arising out of the war.

722 His Highness visited the Middle East in October 1941 and inspected his own as well as other Indian troops there. He broadcast a message from there calling upon the people in this country to put forth further efforts in the war and inspiring them with hope in the ultimate triumph of justice.

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656 435 Long before the regulation of prices of foodstuffs was introduced in many parts of India, His Highness' Government had set up the Food Control Department for the control and distribution of *shali*, the chief staple of the Valley. The arrangement continues to the present day and *shali* is sold to consumers in Srinagar at fixed rates in Government controlled sale centres. Over a year ago, however, the soaring prices of other foodstuffs and the general food situation in the valley, as a whole, caused much anxiety, and His Highness' Government had to adopt several measures to relieve the situation. The measures included the fixation of the maximum sale prices of food-grains, restrictions on the movement of food-grains, restrictions on the export of potatoes, *til*, *sarson*, *alsi* and oil extracted therefrom and the opening of shops in Srinagar and certain towns and villages in the *mufassils*, where the poor classes of people could get grains at fixed rates. Food-grains were made available n deficit areas at low prices, at a considerable loss to the Government. Boards of Food Control, with representatives of different communities and interests, were constituted in both the provinces to deal with questions of policy relating to food-grains. Rationing of other important essentials of life, like fuel and sugar, was introduced. A Department of Supplies was set up.

• 657 Early in January 1943, His Highness the Maharaja Bahadur placed at the disposal of the Government a sum of Rs. 2,00,000 to serve as the nucleus of a Fund for

• 157 alleviating the distress of the poor. The gift rendered it possible for the Government to supply food-grains to the poor at Jammu at the cheapest possible rates, viz., 15 seers of food-grains (12 seers of wheat and 3 seers of rice) per head per month, for Rs. 2-8-0 only, when in the adjoining British territory ordinary wheat was selling at Rs. 9-4-0 per maund and ordinary rice at Rs. 17-4-0 per maund. But, as the quota of wheat and gram fixed by the Government of India was drastically reduced, and the relief from His Highness' Fund had to be distributed to the poorer classes living in all parts of the State on an equitable basis, the poor relief shops in Jammu City were closed in August last.

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148 His Highness has played an important part in the joint effort concerning the political future of British India and the Indian States. At the first Round Table Conference, His Highness uttered the following memorable words : " As the Allies of Britain, we stand solidly by the British connection. As Indians and loyal to the land of our birth, we stand as solidly as the rest of our countrymen for our land's enjoyment of a position of honour and equality in the British Commonwealth..... ..... Neither England nor India can afford to see this Conference end in failure. We must resolve to succeed. Difficulties shall not be insuperable. We must exercise patience, tact and forbearance and be inspired by mutual understanding and goodwill ; and we must give and take. If we succeed, England no less than India gains. If we fail, India no less than England loses." His Highness kept in touch with the subsequent conferences in London, and other deliberations held from time to time in connection either with the States or with India as a whole. Before the commencement of the talks of Sir Stafford Cripps with Indian leaders towards the end of March last, His Highness issued an historical statement, in the course of which he said that it was the duty of the Princes to show that as patriots, they were desirous that their countrymen should feel themselves the equals of nationals anywhere in the world. His Highness expressed the view that every autonomous unit of a self-governing India

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28. **Co-operation.**—"In Co-operation lies the hope of the Agriculturist". Co-operation is a league of the weak against the strong. It has made rapid strides during the decade. The number of Central Societies has risen from 9 to 14, the agricultural societies have similarly gone up from 948 to 2,438 while non-credit societies number 170 and the non-agricultural societies are 238 compared to 40 in 1923. The total membership of these societies is 63,364 nearly 300 per cent. more than it was formerly. The working capital of these societies amounts to Rs. 7,019,190 and is made of share capital, reserve fund, deposits, loans from Government and loans from Central Banks and societies. The loan from Government amounts to Rs. 433,000 only while share capital and deposits stand at Rs. 1,505,386 and 1,804,511 respectively. The objects for which loans are advanced will be clear from the statement given in the margin which will show that purchase of cattle and payment of land revenue stand foremost. 154 societies in Kashmir and 72 in Jammu Province have grown self-sufficient while 187 societies in both the provinces have failed. The Government has granted material concessions to these societies. 75 per cent. rebate is allowed on money order commission, exemption is granted from stamp and registration fees, the money of societies is kept in safe custody in the Government treasuries, the societies are empowered to issue *hundies*. ½ of land revenue of *Kharif* is remitted in favour of sanitation societies besides several other facilities. The Co-operative Department has roused in the people a joint social endeavour to restrict extravagant expenditure on ceremonial occasions and take to education. In 134 villages the department has pursued a scheme of consolidation of holdings and raised the average area per field from 3·40 acres to 22·09 acres. The movement has received a vigorous fillip from the enactment of the Agriculturists Relief Regulation. The Co-operative Department is also knitting together the artisan classes like weavers and others as will be seen from the number of non-agriculturist societies.

Census of Societies, 1933 A. D.

Serial No.	Objects	Financials	
		No. of Societies	Amount
1	Purchase of cattle	1740	37·62
2	Payment of land revenue and cesses	1213	19·42
3	Purchase of seed	9	·42
4	Weddings	0·51	9·13
5	Payment of Subsidised debts	1116	19·76
6	Household expenses	4·91	4·58
7	Purchase and repairs of buildings	1247	19·98
8	Purchase of boats	9	·98
9	Trade	2·47	9·91
10	Purchase of fodder	·99	·17
11	Purchase of new implements	·44	·46
12	Purchase of seeds of grass	·47	·94
13	Redemption of mortgaged lands and houses	1·46	2·13
14	Purchase of land and houses	·42	1·42
15	Purchase of livestock	1194	9·17
16	Dowries expenses	·36	·21
17	Miscellaneous	1·19	1·19

28. **General Administration.**—The saddest event of the decade was the demise of His Highness Lt.-General Shri Maharaja Pratap Singh Ji Bahadur, G. C. S. I., G. C. I. E., G. B. E., Ll. D., who passed away on the 23rd of September 1925 at the age of seventy six.

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He was succeeded by His Highness Shri Maharaja Harisingh Ji Bahadur, G. C. I. E., K. C. V. O., who now holds the reins of Government. His accession to the *Gaddi* was a harbinger of number of social and political measures of sweeping importance. The Agriculturists Relief Regulation which has saved the peasantry from the money-lender is a case in point. His Highness has always striven to act in accordance with the wishes of his people and has for the first time established the convention of calling annually the Representatives of the people to the capital in conference to consult them on measures touching their welfare, and the step is one of unique importance in the history of the State as ushering an era of popular Government. Besides the re-organisation of the Kashmir State Forces, constitution of a High Court Bench, re-organization of Police and of several other departments which form the outstanding feature of the period of his reign he has evinced a keen interest in social reform and has placed on the statute book of the

657 State were measures vital to the advancement of the people, such as the
642 Prevention of Infant Marriage Regulation, raising the age of consent to 14 for girls and 18 for boys and the stoppage of female infanticide amongst Rajputs and prohibition of juvenile smoking. Many of the improvements in trade, industry, communications, education, irrigation, sanitation etc. which have already been dealt with owe their origin to his solicitude to see his subjects happy and prosperous.

642 The administration is conducted by His Highness through Ministers (now headed by a Prime Minister) who enjoy large powers in their respective portfolios. His Highness has followed a policy of decentralisation of powers in all branches of administration consistent with efficiency and good Government.

692 **31. Courts.**—The stability and growth of society hinges to a large extent on the efficient and speedy administration of justice through the channel of Judicial Courts and on the enactment of laws conducive to the welfare of the masses. The Census Report is not the proper place to record an account of the various salutary laws passed during the decade as the space is naturally limited and no justice can be done to the subject. As regards the Judicial system of the State it is modelled on the British Indian system of administration of justice with certain important differences such as the exercise of civil and criminal jurisdiction by the same judicial officers and the facilities allowed to litigants to appear personally in the High Court to plead their case. The separation for which a vigorous and persistent demand exists in British India is already in operation here.

The decade has witnessed the formation of a High Court Bench consisting of a Chief Justice and two Judges in supersession of the former system of a single Chief Justice of the High Court. His Highness takes a personal interest in the selection of Judges who can consequently compare favourably with their compeers in British India. The judiciary in the subordinate courts is recruited from amongst qualified hands who are either barristers or graduates of law.

691 The total number of Courts has increased as will be seen in the margin.
692 The number of suits disposed in 1931 comes to 21,904 while the suits filed number 20,641 which is a sure proof of the fact that justice is not deferred but promptly administered. Moreover the spirit of litigation seems on the decline as the number of suits filed in 1921 was 23,009. The expenditure of the Judicial Department has risen from Rs. 510,938 in 1921 to Rs. 648,246 in 1930. The highest expenditure was incurred in 1928 when it came to Rs. 733,302. The total cost of administration of justice for the decade is Rs. 7,008,725.

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	Numbers of Courts.	
	1921.	1931.
Civil Courts ..	89	66
Criminal Courts ..	122	127
Revenue .. exercising criminal powers ..	98	97
Lawyers including Advocates ..	173	177

625 **32. Police.**—The decade has witnessed the augmentation of the Police
652 Force in all ranks and a rise in the status and emoluments of these custodians of public peace and safety. The diagram in the margin will convince the reader of the rapid progress made in the State in this direction. The Executive and the Clerical Staff was separated. The total cost of Police Force in 1930 was Rs. 712,588 compared to Rs. 414,621 in 1920, giving an increase of 71·8 per cent. As regards offences, those against State and public tranquility, murders and other offences against person exhibited an increase, while

	1931
Inspector-General of Police ..	1
Deputy Inspector-General of Police ..	2
Superintendents of Police ..	7
Assistant Superintendents of Police ..	6
Inspectors ..	31
Sub-Inspectors ..	88
Head Constables ..	297
Constables ..	2,577

674

sect instead of Arya Samaj, yet the returns of schedules showed a great preponderance of entries like Samaj, Arya, or Mahasha and it was only in the case of intelligent persons that the entries of Vedic Dharma were found recorded. 795

Separate enquiries were made from the various local branches regarding their activities during the decade but upto the time of writing responses were received only from Mirpur and Srinagar which show that a girl school having a building of its own and a small library is being run by the Mirpur Samaj which has also reclaimed 2,500 Chamars while the Srinagar Samaj is engaged in social and educational propaganda. It maintains a girl school of the middle standard in a building of its own wherein the number of students swells to about 100 in summer. There is a Rainawari Arya Samaj Vanitashram where widows are given lessons in the three Rs and are also taught embroidery and weaving work to enable them to earn a living. The Samaj celebrated half a dozen widow re-marriages and is doing propaganda work to break down the opposition. 794

205. Depressed Classes.—His Highness the Maharaja Bahadur had thrown open the public wells and schools and colleges to the untouchables long ago but to complete the work of their social equalization and uplift, he has very recently made an announcement throwing open all State temples and Devasthans to the depressed classes for 'Darshan' and prayer and this has ushered in a new era in the orthodox Hinduism of the State which will soon adapt itself to the changing conditions and it is hoped that the depressed classes will no longer show an anxiety to stand out of the ranks of the orthodox Hinduism. It is to be seen whether with the fresh stamp of touchability and equality the orthodox Hinduism will be able to recoup its numbers although there seems little doubt that farther migration from the Brahmanic into the Arya Samaj would materially cease. 657 ● 178

206. Islam.—Mohammedanism is a monotheistic religion believing in the unity of God, in Mohammed as his messenger and prophet, in Quran as his scripture, in the existence of angels, predestination and resurrection. It also enjoins the performance of some cordinal duties *viz.* "the Saalt (daily prayers), the Saum (fasting in the month of Ramzan), the Haj (Pilgrimage to Mecca) and the Zakat (allotting a certain proportion of ones' income for charitable and religious purposes)". It is readily distinguishable from Hinduism as it has a definite creed and an intensely proselytising mission, its followers in India as well as in Kashmir being made up of foreign immigrants and by conversions from Hinduism. The Muslim population of this State consists mainly of local converts from all castes, *i. e.*, Brahmans, Rajputs, Vaishyas and Shudras who passed into the Muslim ranks at various periods of history. The Imperial Table XVII shows that under Muslims also there are found a number of Hindu castes such as Jats and Rajputs in the Jammu Province, and Bats, Dars, Rainas and Pandits in the Kashmir Province some of whom upto this date retain most of their old ceremonies and customs. The Muslim Rajputs of the Jammu Province still observe the endogamous and exogamous marriage groups. The institutions of child marriage, prohibition of widow re-marriage and payment of fee to Brahmans at marriage show the close affinity in which they still stand to their Hindu brethren. In Kashmir the visitors are quite familiar with the famous shawl merchant Nurdin Pandit the first half of whose name is Muslim while the suffix is purely Hindu. In Ladakh and Frontier Illaqas the inhabitants who were formerly Budhists of the local Mangolian race were muslimised in a wholesale manner although some of them in Ladakh still observe some Budhistic customs. They freely drink chhang—the Budhist beverage and the worship of Budhist Devata Rahto is also performed by some classes. 779

The total Muslim population as enumerated at the present Census is 2,817,636 persons against 2,548,514 of the 1921 Census the increase amounting to 10·5 per cent. against 5·1 per cent. of the previous decade which shows a very satisfactory record. Their proportion per 10,000 of the population has also risen from 7,675 to 7,727. The Subsidiary Table I shows that amongst the Natural Divisions the percentage variation continues to be the highest in the Kashmir Province (11·6) as at the last Census which establishes the high fecundity of the Kashmiri 162[1]

[1] [Errata: Cf. category 116, p. 330 for corrections—Analyst]